

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 NEA-10 ISO-00 IOE-00 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12

ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /111 W

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P 101415Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8362

INFO USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 252

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY

S E C R E T TANANARIVE 1290

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, US

SUBJ: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: US DEMARCHE ON PUERTO RICO

AND KOREA; ZAMBIAN COMPLAINT

REF: (A) TANANARIVE 1250, (B) STATE 178439, (C) STATE 181704,
(D) STATE 181500, (E) STATE 190369

1. SUMMARY. REACTION TO CHARGE'S DEMARCHE ON MFA SEC-GEN
RE PUERTO RICO AND KOREA WAS NOT ENCOURAGING. MADAGASCAR
WILL FOLLOW "PROGRESSIST" LINE AT COLOMBO. FOREIGN MINISTER
PUBLICLY STATED THAT KOREAN REUNIFICATION IS PRIMARY
MALAGASY OBJECTIVE AND THAT LARGE FOREIGN POWERS SHOULD
NOT INTERFERE. END SUMMARY.

2. SINCE FOREIGN MINISTER AND REST OF GOVERNMENT HAVE
BEEN CLOSETED AT PRESIDENTIAL PALACE EVERY DAY FOLLOWING
JULY 30 DEATH OF PRIME MINISTER ET AL, I WAS ASKED TO
CALL ON MFA SEC-GEN BEAZA INSTEAD ON AUGUST 9 JUST PRIOR
TO FOREIGN MINISTER JEAN DEMANANJARA'S DEPARTURE FOR
COLOMBO. I FOLLOWED GUIDANCE OF REFS (B) THROUGH (D) BUT
MET ONLY WITH ARGUMENTS THAT US TROOPS ARE STILL IN KOREA
SECRET

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AND THAT US HAS NOT GIVEN PUERTO RICO ITS INDEPENDENCE
(DESPITE MY EMPHASIS ON PAST PUERTO RICAN ELECTIONS). (IT
SHOULD BE NOTED THAT BEAZA HAS UNUSUAL STAYING POWER, BEING
EX-PRESIDENT TSIRANANA'S SON-IN-LAW AND HAVING SERVED AS

MFA SEC-GEN FOR SIX YEARS DURING MOST RECENT FIVE GOVERNMENTS OF MADAGASCAR.) BEZAZA ASSURED ME THAT HE WOULD CONVEY THE US POSITION TO FOREIGN MINISTER LATER THAT DAY.

3. I UTILIZED OCCASION TO DISCUSS US VOTE IN SECURITY COUNCIL RE ZAMBIAN COMPLAINT (REF E). BEZAZA EXPRESSED SOME SURPRISE THAT EVEN THOUGH US ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ATTACK HAD TAKEN PLACE, WE ONLY ABSTAINED ON RESOLUTION. HE DID NOT COMMENT FURTHER.

4. COMMENT: GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS THESE DAYS ARE PRE-OCCUPIED BY DELIBERATIONS GOING ON AT PRESIDENTIAL PALACE RE REPLACEMENTS FOR PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF. WE DO NOT EXPECT ANY POLICY CHANGES TO RESULT FROM ANY NEW APPOINTMENTS (WHICH APPARENTLY HAVE NOT YET BEEN MADE), SINCE THE DECEASED HAD ONLY A LIMITED ROLE IN MAKING OF OVERALL POLICY. THEREFORE, WE MUST EXPECT THAT MADAGASCAR WILL CONTINUE TO VOTE STRAIGHT "PROGRESSIST" LINE AT COMOMBL. MALAGASY WILL NOT PRODUCE ANY INITIATIVES, NOR WILL THEY BE HELPFUL TO OUR SIDE IN ANY WAY. END COMMENT.

5. AT HIS AIRPORT DEPARTURE, BEMANANJARA TOLD THE PRESS: "MADAGASCAR INTENDS TO RESPECT AND TO HAVE RESPECTED THE REVOLUTIONARY PRINCIPLES COMMON TO ALL COUNTRIES.FOR THOSE PROBLEMS ABOUT WHICH WE CARE THE MOST, THERE IS NOTABLY THAT OF KOREAN REUNIFICATION. THIS REUNIFICATION WOULD TAKE PLACE PEACEFULLY AND WITHOUT INTERFERENCE FROM LARGE FOREIGN POWERS."

6. GDRM DEL TO COLOMBO. FOREIGN MINISTER BEMANANJARA WILL HEAD GDRM DELEGATION. OTHERS ON THE DELEGATION ARE GDRM PERMREP TO UN AND AMB TO CANADA, BLAISE RABETAFIKA, GDRM AMB TO FREANCE (AND EX-AMB TO US), HENRI RAHARIJAONA; GDRM DIRECTOR OF MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS HENRI RAZAFINDRATOVO; AND CHIEF OF MFA'S AFRICA-ASIA SECTION, LUCIEN RAKOTOVOLOLONA. COMMENT: BEMANANJARA, WHO SPEAKS SECRET

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EXCELLENT FRENCH BUT VIRTUALLY NO ENGLISH, IS BASICALLY A YOUNG, RATIONAL, AND NOT UNFRIENDLY INDIVIDUAL, BUT HE CAN BE EXPECTED TO FOLLOW HIS MARCHING ORDERS TO THE LETTER, AS EVIDENCED BY HIS STATEMENT ABOVE. THIS IS ESPECIALLY SO BECAUSE OF PRESIDENT RATSIRAKA'S OVERRIDING INTEREST IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN GENERAL AND IN MADAGASCAR'S INTERNATIONAL POSTURE. RABETAFIKA, RAHARIJAONA AND RAZAFINDRATOVO ALL SPEAK ENGLISH AND DO NOT HAVE A BLIND SPOT VIS-A-VIS WESTERN VIEWS ON VARIOUS MATTERS, BUT THEY HAVE EVEN LESS INFLUENCE IN POLICY-MAKING THAN DOES FOREIGN MINISTER. SHEINBAUM

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 15 SEP 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, LOBBYING, DEMARCHE, NONALIGNED NATIONS MEETINGS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TANANA01290
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D760307-0777
From: TANANARIVE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197608103/baaaerep.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <14 OCT 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: US DEMARCHE ON PUERTO RICO AND KOREA; ZAMBIAN COMPLAINT
TAGS: PFOR, US, UN
To: STATE INFO USUN N Y
COLOMBO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006